

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 14, 2004. Claims 1-6 and 8 have been amended and new claim 9 has been added. Claims 1-4 and 6 were amended to depend on claim 8. Claim 5 and claim 8 were amended to correct typographical errors (claim 5 was amended to correct a grammatical error and claim 8 was amended to remove a repeated phrase). New claim 9 combines original claim 5 with an element of claim 8. Accordingly, no new subject matter has been added.

The Specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim subject matter. The Specification has been amended to address this issue.

Claim 5 was objected to for including a typographical error. Claim 5 has been amended to correct the error.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected as being obvious over Morin (US 3,129,479) in view of Marinsky (US 2,325,332). This rejection is traversed.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 have been amended to depended on and further limit claim 8. Since claim 8 has been allowed, the above rejection with respect to claims 1, 2, and 4, has been rendered moot.

Claim 5 recites a slide fastener comprising, among other things, left and right fastener element housings formed between a guide column and the left and right side parts, wherein said left and right fastener element housings prevent the fastener tapes from entering therein. Morin '479 fails to disclose or suggest at least the above feature of the slide fastener according to claim 5.

In particular, Morin '479 discloses that the fastener tapes 16 and 17 pass through slider passages 14 and 15 and enter channels 20 and 21 of the slider. See Morin '479 at column 1, lines 55-66. In contrast, Morin '479 specifically teaches that the fastener tapes 16 and 17 are guided into the slider body by the flanges 12 and 13. See Morin '479 at column 2, lines 27-34. The Examiner's reliance on Marinsky is unclear and no motivation to combine Morin with Marinsky has been provided. In view of the above deficiencies, Applicant submits that claim 5 is not

obvious because Marinsky fails to cure the defects of Morin and there is no motivation to combine Morin with Marinsky.

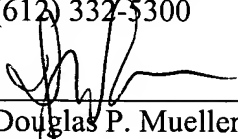
New claim 9 is original claim 5 with the inclusion of a novel feature of the invention recited in claim 8 (i.e., "the left side part extends beyond the second end of the bottom plate and the right side part extends beyond the second end of the top plate").

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: March 14, 2005



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/JEL:sll

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE